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Seed dispersal in *Polygonum*.—REED and SMOOT²⁶ find that *Polygonum virginianum* has a somewhat unique means of seed dispersal. When an object hits the rigid persistent style, the akene is violently ejected. It is found that a definite separation layer is developed, and that a considerable tension arises in the pedicel through the growth of the pith below the separation layer. This growth is sufficient to cause the compression of the pith above the layer, since the bounding vascular cells are rigid. The release of these cells from this pressure, when the akene is detached by a stroke, causes the shooting of the akenes to a distance of three or four meters.—H. C. COWLES.

Solution tension and lipolysis.—POND²⁷ has investigated the effect of various toxic salts upon the saponification of ethyl butyrate by a commercial product, holadin. Whereas MATHEWS, MCGUIGAN, and CALDWELL concluded from their results with eggs of *Fundulus*, diastatic digestion, and proteolysis, respectively, that toxicity was an inverse function of solution tension, POND concludes that in lipolysis this is not true of the salts tested. He points out also various discrepancies in the results of these investigators, emphasizing the want of agreement and the extent of the divergence of observed from calculated values.—C. R. B.

Swiss vegetation.—Few countries are better known phytogeographically than Switzerland. GRISCH²⁸ has given a detailed account of one of the less known districts. The entire area studied contains only subalpine, alpine, or nival vegetation. Much is made of the influence of snow, and it is pointed out that snow is as detrimental to some plants as it is favorable to others. This was brought out by some interesting experiments that supplemented the field study. A detailed treatment of the various plant formations, and an annotated list of the species make up the body of the paper.—H. C. COWLES.

Heliotropism in a lichen.—NĚMEC has tested experimentally an inference of SACHS from observations in nature that the thallus of *Peltigera canina* reacted to light like the thallus of *Marchantia*.²⁹ He finds *Peltigera aphthosa* distinctly heliotropic, without having the rate of this reaction influenced by geotropism, and with a non-reversible inherent dorsiventrality. The young rhizines are negatively heliotropic. The perceptive and active regions have not been determined.—C. R. B.

²⁶ REED, H. S., and SMOOT, I., The mechanism of seed-dispersal in *Polygonum virginianum*. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 33:377-386. 1906.

²⁷ POND, R. H., Solution tension and toxicity in lipolysis. Am. Jour. Phys. 19: 258-283. 1907.

²⁸ GRISCH, ANDR., Beiträge zur Kenntniss der pflanzengeographischen Verhältnisse der Bergünnerstöcke. Beih. Bot. Centralbl. 22:255-316. 1907.

²⁹ NĚMEC, B., Die heliotropische Orientation des Thallus von *Peltigera aphthosa* (L.) Hoffm. Bull. Int. Acad. Sci. Bohême 11:1-5. 1906.